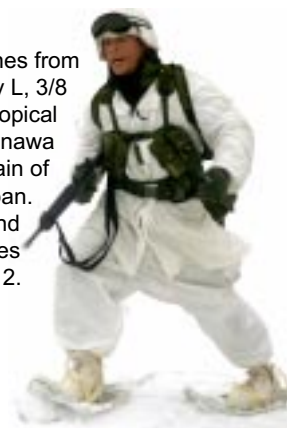


# Okinawa MARINE

Marines from Company L, 3/8 leave the tropical jungles of Okinawa for the icy terrain of northern Japan. See story and photos on pages 10-12.



March 30, 2001

Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan

www.okinawa.usmc.mil

## INSIDE

### NEWS

#### 2001 Road Tax payments due for vehicle owners

The annual requirements to pay for the right to operate a privately owned motor vehicle on the roads of Japan starts April 2 for all service members. Taxes will be paid in phases depending on the type of vehicle.

see page 3 for more

### NEWS

#### Service members enrolled in VEAP see more benefits

Participants in the Veteran Education Assistance Program who did not convert to the Montgomery GI Bill in 1997 are now able to convert according to the new conversion law passed Nov. 1, 2000.

see page 5 for more

### FEATURE

#### Engineers compete during St. Patty's Day celebration

Marines and Sailors, all engineers, gathered at Camp Hansen for their annual St. Patrick's Day field competition. 9th ESB engineers proved their worth by coming through victorious in the end.

see page 13 for more

### SPORTS

#### H-Town rises above Giants in flag football struggle

Camp Hansen's team, H-Town, battles its way to the top of the Grid Iron Classic Open Flag Football Tournament. Waiting for H-Town at the top was the well-known Okinawa Giants, who lost the trophy in the final game.

see page 12 for more

### LEISURE

#### Fukusyu-en built on the friendships of two cities

The Fukusyu-en park with its serene gardens and exotic buildings stands as a reminder of the friendly relations between Fukusyu-en and its Chinese sister city, Fukusyu, and anniversary of Naha City.

see page 17 for more

### FORECAST



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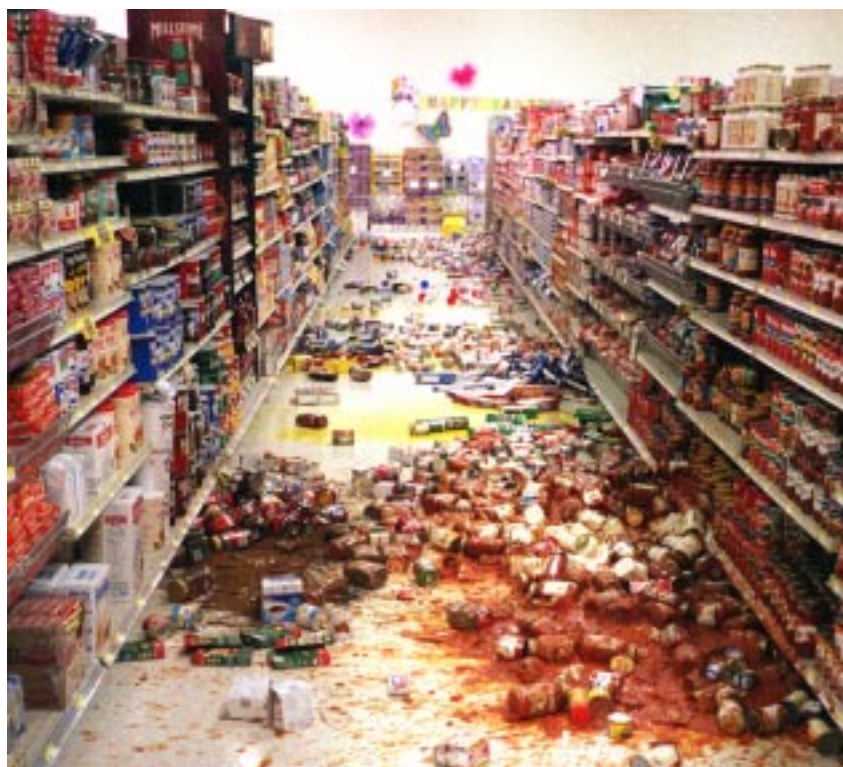


PHOTO COURTESY OF RAY TALavera

## Iwakuni shake-up

An earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale shook up Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni on mainland Japan March 24 causing more than \$25,000 in product loss at the Air Station's commissary. No injuries were reported at the Air Station, but two people died in Hiroshima near the quake's epicenter which was approximately 60 miles south of Iwakuni. "I was scared," said Navy PO1 Eric Woodin, a Maintenance Technician, at American Forces Network, Iwakuni. "It's embarrassing to admit, but I jumped under my bed."

## Thrift Savings Plan opens to military Oct. 9

JIM GARAMONE  
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Service members can begin to sign up for the Thrift Savings Plan beginning Oct. 9, 2001, DoD officials said.

The Thrift Savings Plan is a retirement and investment plan that has been available to civilian government workers since 1987. Congress extended the plan to include service members in 2000.

"It's in addition to your regular retirement," said Army Lt. Col. Tom Emswiler, a tax expert with DoD's Office of Military Compensation. "It's optional."

The open season for signing up will run from Oct. 9 to Dec. 8. Deductions start in January 2002. In 2002, service members can contribute up to 7 percent of their basic pay. The maximum amount service members can contribute will change. The current limit of 7 percent of basic pay will rise to 10 percent by 2005 and become unlimited in 2006.

Unlike civilians, who cannot make lump-sum payments into the program, service members may also contribute all or a percentage of any special pay, incentive pay, or bonus pay they receive.

"You can contribute from 1 percent to 100 percent of your special pays, incentives and bonuses into the thrift plan," Emswiler said.

The total amount generally cannot exceed \$10,500 for the year. Contributions from pay earned in a combat zone do not count against the \$10,500 ceiling. Combat zone contributions are subject to a different limitation, however, 25% of pay or \$35,000, whichever is less.

Like civilian employees in the program, service members must choose how they want their money invested. Right now, there are three funds to choose from. The funds run the gamut of safe — the G Fund invests in special government bonds — to riskier investments — the C Fund tied to the stock market. There is also an F Fund for investing in commercial bonds.

## Force Protection Exercise begins

CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Security and emergency response units on Marine Corps installations throughout Okinawa will participate in a Force Protection Exercise April 3-5 to evaluate and improve security procedures.

Base officials said the routine exercise is not related to any current real-world situation. It is part of required annual training here to help improve the military's ability to protect its forces, family members and facilities.

"Force protection exercises are designed to increase readiness to respond to terrorist attack, natural disaster or a serious large-scale accident," said Roger D. Lesile, Antiterrorism and Force Protection Officer, Marine Corps Base. "Okinawa is not considered a high threat area for terrorist activities."

Traffic may be rerouted at some military installation gates and delays may occur during the exercise as security levels will be heightened. Marines, family members and civilian employees may also be required to participate in added security checks during the exercise according to changing exercise threat levels on base, Leslie said.

TSP will unveil the new S and I funds in May. S Fund investments go to a stock index fund that paces small businesses. I Fund investors will track international companies the same way.

Service members will be able to start, change or reallocate their TSP contributions during two open seasons held each year. These are November to January and May to July.

"Because bonuses are hard to predict, if you are already participating in the plan and contributing from basic pay and you receive, for example, a reenlistment bonus, you can elect to contribute at any time," Emswiler said.

Contributions to the plan come from "pre-tax" dollars. Service members pay no federal or state income taxes on earnings until they're withdrawn.

The services will have teams visiting members to explain the program. Until then, see the thrift plan's uniformed services page at [www.tsp.gov/uniserv/index.html](http://www.tsp.gov/uniserv/index.html) for more information.

Report traffic violations at 645-7441/7442





# Fees due for Japanese Road Tax

## Automobile owners pay annually for right to operate their vehicle

SSGT NATHAN L. HANKS, JR.  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**CAMP FOSTER** — The annual requirement for vehicles owners in Japan to pay the 2001 road tax begins April 2.

For service members, tax payment will be separated into two phases. Phase-I begins April 2. Phase-II, which applies to most vehicles, begins May 1 and will offer tax collection sites on seven military installations.

All taxes must be paid in yen.

Taxes paid during Phase-I apply to mini-cars and motorcycles and must be paid at the Japanese city, town, or village of office closest to the owner's residence. Tax payment for a mini-car is ¥3,000. Tax for a motorcycle with an engine displacement of 126cc or above is 1,000 yen. Payment for motorcycles with 125cc and below is 500 yen.

City offices will accept payments on weekdays between 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Once the tax is paid, the vehicle must be taken to the Joint U.S. Forces Vehicle Registration Office, Building 5638, Camp Foster for sticker replacement. Vehicle owners must bring Japanese title, valid military registration and the 2001 tax payment receipt to receive a new sticker.

Phase-I also includes all the title transfers and vehicles designated for de-registration by a special power of attorney holder. The tax for these vehicles must be paid directly to the Prefecture Tax Office in Makiminato at the time of registration. Payment

will be accepted at Window 11.

"Vehicles that are de-registered on April 1 or later will have to pay the road tax," said Air Force SSgt Ricky D. Mitchell, Air Force Liaison, Joint U.S. Forces Vehicle Registration Office. "It does not matter if the vehicle is junked or inoperable, road taxes still have to be paid."

For service members transferring away from Okinawa and using a power of attorney during the road tax period, the tax must be paid prior to checking out, according to MSgt Theodore E. Marling, Senior Staff Noncommissioned Officer, JFVRO.

Vehicle owners who will be off island during the month of May can also report to the tax office for payment during April. All other vehicle owners will pay their 2001 road taxes during Phase-II which begins May 1.

Phase-II requires tax payment during the month of May at any tax collection site on or off base.

Phase-II tax rates are:

Passenger cars, vans and trucks with category license 44, 400, 51-59, 77, 78, 500, and 501 with engine displacements between 660cc and 2,000cc pay 7,500 yen.

Passenger cars with license 33 and 300 with engine displacements between 2,000 and 4,500cc pay 19,000 yen excess of 4,500cc pay 22,000

and cars in yen.

Special use vehicles with category license 11,100, 88, and 800 pay 32,000 yen.

At on-base collection sites, Military Police will verify a valid Japanese title, military registration, and 2001 road tax payment receipt before the blue 2000 road tax sticker will be removed and a red 2001 road tax sticker is placed.

Military Police will also check vehicles for obvious or apparent violations of the Japanese inspection laws and equipment defects.



## Payment Locations



All payments made at the following locations must be made in yen. Military Police will verify a valid Japanese title, military registration and 2001 road tax receipt before the old road tax sticker is replaced.

### May 1-2

Courtney Theater - 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### May 7, 11

Keystone Theater - 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### May 14-15

Kinser Theater - 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### May 16-18, 21-25

Foster Field House - 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### May 29

Hansen Theater - 9:30 a.m. to noon, 1-3:30 p.m.

### May 30-31

Torii Station Gym - 9:30 a.m. to noon, 1-3:30 p.m.

The Japanese government requires the road tax as one of the conditions for operating a privately owned motor vehicle in Japan.

"If a service member is deploying in April and needs to pay the road tax, the service member can come in before their deployment and pay the taxes," SSgt Mitchell said. "All we need is a copy of their orders."

Beginning May 1, law enforcement authorities are authorized to stop all mini cars and motorcycles without the red 2001 road tax sticker. All other vehicles without the decal will have until June 1 before they risk being stopped. Drivers without a current tax sticker and receipt can be cited and restricted from operating the vehicle until the tax is paid.

Questions concerning the tax collection may be directed to the Joint Forces Vehicle Registration Office at 645-7481/3963.

# Commandant: Marines currently underenrolled in EFMP

LCPL KEITH R. MEIKLE  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**CAMP FOSTER** — Gen James L. Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps, sent a letter to commanders Corpwide recently expressing his thoughts about the Exceptional Family Members Program.

"I am concerned that our Marine families are underenrolled in the EFMP," Gen Jones said in the white letter. A white letter is used to notify commanders about pressing issues the Commandant feels are of extreme importance.

The Department of Education estimates that 10 percent of children will be identified as having physical, learning, or emotional disabilities requiring special services, according to the white letter.

"With this statistic we have the potential for over 10,000 children to be enrolled in the program," Gen Jones said.

There are 520 Marine families enrolled in EFMP on Okinawa, and 4,400 enrolled Corpwide.

Many Marines are hesitant to enroll in EFMP because of misconceptions about being labeled, passed over for promotions and being nondeployable.

"These rumors are not true," said CWO4 John Cressy-Neely, Maintenance Production Officer, 3d Materiel Readiness Battalion, 3d Force Service Support Battalion, who has two sons in the program. "When I enrolled I was a CWO2, so there is not a lack of promotions. I have been to Cuba, East Timor and am currently stationed in Okinawa, and I can deploy anywhere."

"It is a Marine Corps Order to enroll in EFMP, if applicable, to communicate family needs to Headquarters Marine Corps," said Donna Champion, EFMP representative, Marine Corps Base. "It ensures appropriate assignments for the sponsor and their family members before, during and after relocation caused by PCS orders."

"It also ensures there are enough special education teachers, medical specialists and medications available

for the number of family members in the Marine's area," Champion said.

"The EFMP has benefited my family by ensuring the educational needs of my sons are met," CWO4 Cressy-Neely said. "My sons have always had the doctors and educational programs needed to deal with their conditions."

An increase in enrollment will enhance the program's ability to ensure all family needs are met.

"An increase in enrollment will most likely cause a staff increase," Champion said. "Also, a reduction in early returns, humanitarian transfers and tour curtailments is inevitable."

More importantly, an increase in enrollment will help the Marine Corps maintain its operational readiness.

"Underenrollment has a direct relationship with a Marine being mission ready," Champion said. "Family readiness has been at the forefront ever since Desert Storm. By ensuring medical and educational services are available for

the family member, the Marine can concentrate on their duties.

"If a service member has their family taken care of, then they are also mission ready," Champion said. It is the Marine Corps leaders who need to ensure their Marines are mission ready.

Leaders at all levels need to be aware of the EFMP and actively refer Marines who may require special needs, according to Gen Jones. "We as leaders need to promote the EFMP in it's true light," Gen Jones said. "We must ensure proper screening of our Marines' needs prior to executing PCS orders."

An increased enrollment will save the Marine Corps money.

"The Marine Corps spends money to relocate families due to non-availability of services," Champion said.

Commands can help educate their units about EFMP by having Champion give a training session on the program.

For more information call Champion at 645-9237.



"If a service member has their family taken care of, then they are also mission ready,"

- Donna Champion



# Education benefits for VEAP improve

## Conversion law passed allowing participants to convert to Montgomery GI Bill for benefits

PFC KEITH R. MEIKLE  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**CAMP FOSTER** — Veteran Education Assistance Program participants who did not convert to the Montgomery GI Bill in 1997 are now eligible for conversion to increase education benefits.

Under the VEAP, participants put a maximum of \$2,700 into a VEAP account and the government deposits \$2 for every \$1 deposit by the participants. This program gave VEAP participants an opportunity to earn \$225 a month for 36 months while enrolled as a full-time student, a maximum benefit of \$8,100.

The conversion will allow VEAP participants to deposit \$2,700 into the MGIB and receive \$650 a month for 36 months while enrolled as a full-time student, a maximum benefit of \$23,400.

The conversion law was passed Nov. 1, 2000, for those who did not convert to MGIB in 1997. The Veterans Administration and Department of Defense just recently finalized the final details for the process.

"VEAP participants must go to an

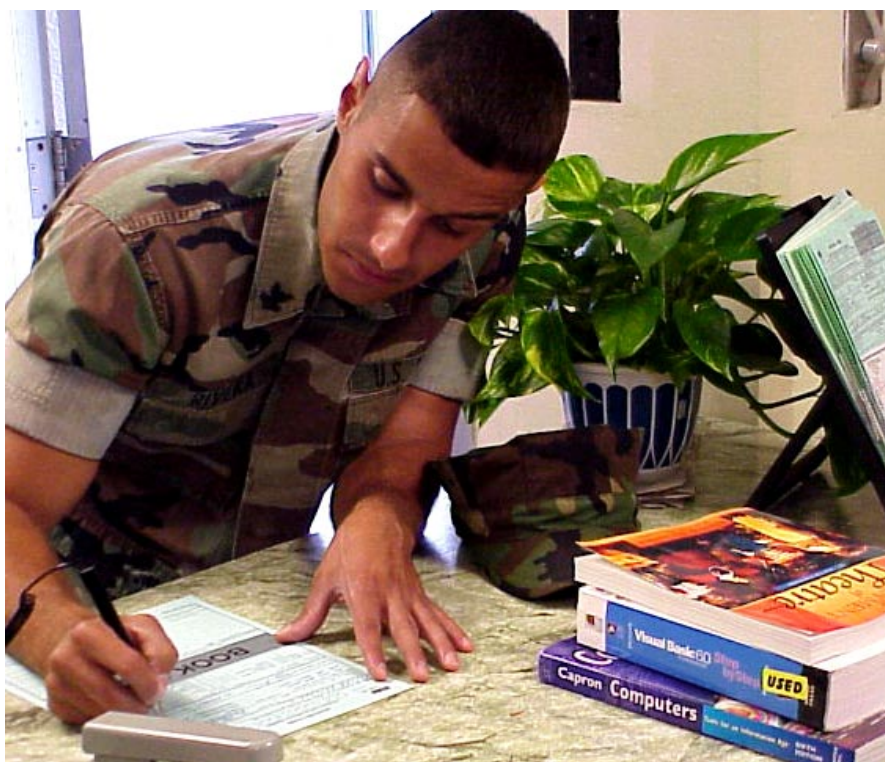
education office and receive counseling about the conversion so the participants fully understand the procedures and benefits," said Richard Noe, Guidance Counselor, Education Office, Camp Foster.

Those who have funds invested in VEAP and wish to convert to MGIB will receive a refund and cancel their VEAP account. They must then enroll in the MGIB.

Those enrolled but without funds invested in VEAP must cancel their account before they are eligible to enroll in the MGIB, according to a Marine Corps administrative message released March 6. These are two separate transactions, therefore, money cannot be transferred from a VEAP account to a MGIB account.

The final step of the conversion process is to select one of three payment options, according to Noe. Either one lump sum of \$2,700, an allotment of at least \$150 a month for 18 months or a combination can be selected. Marines could, for example, deposit \$2,000 then make an allotment for the remaining \$700.

The deadline to complete paper-



LCPL KEITH R. MEIKLE

PO2 Anthony Rivera, Command Master Chief's Assistant, III MEF, completes his paper work for receiving books for his college courses. PO2 Rivera will be using the Montgomery GI Bill to pay for his classes in Theatre this semester.

work to convert to MGIB is Oct. 31, 2001. The Marines have 18 months from their enrollment date to make the full \$2,700 deposit to the MGIB. The converters will not be eligible for MGIB benefits until the deposit is made in full.

The \$2,700 deposit is \$1,500 more than the cost of MGIB when enrolled in recruit training. But a conversion from VEAP to MGIB will provide up to an additional \$15,300 in benefits.

"This is a large advantage for the Marines with the VEAP," Noe said. "They pay more than twice the amount

of an account but receive almost an eight-to-one advantage."

This new advantage is not the only new improvement to education benefits. Others include second term eligibility, increasing your return with contributions and tuition assistance improvements.

For more information about converting from VEAP to MGIB contact any base education office or call Richard Noe at 645-7160. Also see [www.gibill.va.gov/education/news/interimupdate.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/education/news/interimupdate.htm).

## Program focuses on accommodating recruiters

SGT KATESHA NIMAN  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**MARINE CORPS RECRUITING COMMAND, QUANTICO, Va.** — Marine recruiters recently received an exclusive incentive from Marine Corps Community Services.

The Recreation Lodging Priority Program was introduced to the Marine Corps to help increase MCCS support to personnel on independent duty and offer them the opportunity to use recreational lodging facilities for rest and relaxation on a reservation priority basis.

The program provides priority reservations for recreational lodging at participating commands to all personnel on independent duty. The locations of the participating commands vary from East to West coast including Camp Lejeune, N.C., MCAS Miramar, Calif., Camp Pendleton, Calif., Twentynine Palms, Calif., and MCAS Yuma, Ariz.

Accommodations at each of the different locations vary from lodges, cabanas and trailers to cottages and individual cabins.

According to Michael Downs, Director, Personal and Family Readiness, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, this new program is designed to support recruiters and Inspector and Instructor staff by helping to ease their stress.

"We want them to know the Marine Corps understands what they are going through and that MCCS is doing its best to get them access to the major installations," he said.

He added, "These are great accommodations, great vacation spots and an outstanding place to

take your families for a great experience."

The idea for the program was introduced at the MCCS Board of Directors meeting, during a discussion on the level of support MCCS was providing Marines on independent duty.

Carol Garland, MCCS Program Manager, Food and Hospitality, and Rosemarie Campbell, MCCS Catering Specialist for Food and Hospitality, both spearheaded the program and took all necessary actions to get the program approved.

"We had to ask ourselves, 'what can we do to better support those Marines on independent duty?' This program is one of the many ways we are trying to answer this question," Garland said.

Supporting recruiters is the number one priority for the Marine Corps Recruiting Command and to MajGen Garry L. Parks, Commanding General, MCRC.

"Recruiting duty is unrelentingly demanding, so taking care of Marines is fundamental to morale and key to the long-term recruiting success," said MajGen Parks.

The program went into effect Feb. 1 and is expected to be a useful tool to improve the quality of life for recruiters.

"We want people to be aware of the program so they can plan and use the program to its maximum potential," said Downs.

The program will be evaluated after the first year and changes will be made depending on the feedback from participants.

For more information on the program, contact the Marine Corps Recruiting Command Human Resources office at 703-784-9462.

## Colonels nominated

CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC AFFAIRS

An Okinawa Marine is among eight colonels who have been nominated for appointment to brigadier general, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced March 20.

The President nominated the following colonels:

Edward G. Usher III, currently serving as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, 3d Force Service Support Group, Okinawa, Japan.

Ronald S. Coleman, who is currently serving as Commanding Officer, 2d Supply Battalion, 2d Force Service Support Group, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

James F. Flock, currently serving as Branch Head, Aviation Plans, Programs, Budget, Aviation Department, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C.

Kenneth J. Glueck, Jr., currently serving as Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3, II Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Lejeune, NC.

Dennis J. Hejlik, currently serving as Military Secretary to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C.

Carl B. Jensen, currently serving as Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-39, Third Marine Aircraft Wing, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Robert B. Neller, currently serving as assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, 2d Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

John M. Paxton, Jr., currently serving as Fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations, New York, N.Y.





LCpl Jason R. Schulz, coach in training, MTU, H&S Bn, MCB, fires the 9 mm pistol using the ISMT at Camp Foster Jan. 31, which enables users to identify shooting problems.

# MTU Marines on target

LCPL JOSH P. VIERELA  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**CAMP FOSTER** — Marines who qualify at the rifle range could owe their success to the training they receive at the Marksmanship Training Unit here.

The MTU reinforces marksmanship skills Marines learn about in boot camp. "Our mission is to ensure that shooters qualify when they are on the range," said GySgt Edward E. Harris, Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, MTU, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base.

Coaches have come a long way, according to GySgt Harris.

"In the past, units would assemble their best shooters to be coaches," GySgt Harris said. "The problem with this was just because you were a good shooter didn't mean you could articulate information properly to Marines on the range."

As a result, in the mid-80s the Military Occupational Specialty of Primary Marksmanship Instructor was created, according to GySgt Harris.

Although not all coaches have the primary MOS of PMI, it becomes their secondary MOS once they take the proper classes, according to LCpl Brody A. Padgett, PMI, MTU, H&S Bn, MCB.

"Sometimes Marines on the range are nervous and do things wrong but can't see it," GySgt Harris said. "As PMIs, it is our job to show them. We are supposed to be able to correct the problems."

To help accomplish this mission PMIs use different tools. One such tool is the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer.

"The ISMT is one big expensive 'Play

Station'," GySgt Harris said. "The ISMT makes Marines comfortable firing the weapons before they go out on the range and fire for real."

The ISMT, which costs more than \$65,000, uses laser disc programs and replica weapons to simulate real situations in a controlled environment.

"The ISMT gives coaches a real advantage," LCpl Padgett said. "Instead of four coaches covering every 15 targets, the PMIs get to work one on one with the shooter."

This system is capable of tracing each shot and displaying it for the Marines to see. It can also isolate a problem faster than a normal snapping-in process or firing extra rounds, according to GySgt Harris. The ISMT cuts hours into minutes as far as accurate pinpointing of problems.

Although extremely useful in training Marines, the ISMT is not a replacement for the real thing, according to GySgt Harris.

"ISMT is the wave of the future, but I hope that the [Marine Corps] doesn't rely on it completely," GySgt Harris said. "There is just no substitution for rain, wind and the psychological factors of the real thing."

Using the ISMT, as well as communication skills and expertise of coaches, the MTU on Camp Foster aims to keep Marines on target as they near qualification day.

"We have a 100 percent turn around when Marines come to us after they don't qualify on the rifle or pistol range," GySgt Harris said.

If anyone wishes to use an ISMT, call their respective camp MTUs, or contact Cpl James T. Wilson at 645-2453.

## Navy hosts Marines on voyage to the land down under

2NDLT JULIANNE H. SOHN  
PRESS OFFICER

**CAMP FOSTER** — The USS Juneau, with Marines from 2d Battalion, 3d Marine Regiment aboard, headed for Darwin, Australia, recently to help commemorate the anniversary of the sinking of the USS Perry, which was sunk by the Japanese while defending Darwin during WWII. They also helped celebrate the Centennial of Australia's independence.

The Marines set up displays of infantry battalion weapons, participated in two community events, and attended a reception for the survivors of the USS Perry during the celebrations.

"It was good for civilians to find out what we're about," said LCpl Michael McClay, Scout Sniper, Weapons Company, 2/3, who spent the entire 90-degree afternoon in his "ghillie suit," answering questions about his M40A1 sniper rifle. "It really let them understand that you can't watch what we do on television and run right out and do it."

The voyage took 12 days and provided both Sailors and Marines time to train and work side by side. Several Marines volunteered their expertise in weapons handling to help train and familiarize the ship's crew with weapons and to serve as coaches during pistol and rifle live-fire training on the ship's fantail.

"I've shot from the fantail of a ship before," said Sgt Jason Dempsey, Machine Gun Squad Leader, who served as the Noncommissioned

Officer in Charge during the small arms live-fire. "Any time Marines get to instruct on weapons handling is valuable, and I think the Sailors got something out of it. We also got to shoot the Navy's M-14s, which is pretty rare."

Other Marines helped the ship's crew operate the USS Juneau's gun mounts, during General Quarters or battle station drills for the ship's self-defense.

A few Marines fulfilled their traditional role as gunners aboard naval vessels.

"The mounts they [the Navy] use are different from ours," said LCpl Robert Drabicki, Machine Gunner, Weapons Co. "It was a good experience. It let us learn new sights, and maintain our skills."

Marines also had a chance to incorporate the new Marine Martial Arts Program into their daily routine.

They practiced several hours a day either on the flight deck or in the vehicle storage areas. Most of the Marines were able to qualify to the tan-belt level.

"The body hardening was good to go," said Cpl Nicholas Williams, 81mm Mortar Squad Leader, Weapons Co, 2/3. "It really prepares your body for what will happen during a fight and the close combat instruction was awesome PT."

The Martial Arts training, combined with vigorous physical training and numerous periods of instruction on infantry skills and leadership, kept the Marines busy.

### Working side by side

The Marine Corps and Navy have shared a close-knit relationship since 1775, when Marines served as gunners for ship's cannons and as sharpshooters mounted in the riggings.

Although the relationship between Marines and Sailors has changed over time, Marines still rely upon Navy to get to the fight and must learn about shipboard life.

Marines from 2d Battalion, 3d Marine Regiment embarked aboard the USS Juneau recently and learned about their sister service and trained aboard.

"I enjoyed it because it made the guys tight," said LCpl Joseph Murphy, Radio Operator, Headquarters and Service Company, 2/3. "Guys have to depend on each other and we really come together at sea."

Marines from Company E, 2/3 and a detachment from Weapons and Headquarters and Service companies learned all they could about living aboard a ship, training while underway, incorporating the Marines in ship security and force protection.

Marines also assisted Sailors with the care, maintenance and operations of the 33-year-old ship.

"Every time a Marine embarks aboard a ship, he grows to better appreciate the Navy and more completely understands the Marine Corps' naval heritage," said Capt David P. Bradney, Commanding Officer, Co E, 2/3. "These opportunities are becoming rare and must be taken advantage of."



## NJP REPORT

The following are alcohol-related nonjudicial punishments for March 18-24.

### • Underage drinking

A Lance Corporal with Support Company, 7th Communications Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$584 per month for two months and restriction and extra duties for 45 days.

A Lance Corporal with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base, was found guilty at a company-level NJP of underage drinking and drunk and disorderly. Punishment: forfeiture of \$283 per month for one month, restriction and extra duties for 14 days.

## COURTS MARTIAL

• A Corporal assigned to 3d Transportation Support Battalion, 3d Force Service Support Group, was sentenced to 60 days confinement, reduction to E-2 and forfeiture of \$500 per month for two months at a special court-martial on one specification of Article 86, unauthorized absence.

• A Private First Class assigned to 3d TSB, 3d FSSG, was sentenced to 105 days confinement, reduction to E-1, and forfeiture of \$600 per month for four months at a special court-martial on three specifications of Article 91, willfully disobeying a noncommissioned officer, assault upon a NCO and disrespect to a NCO, and one specification of article 128, assault.

• A Lance Corporal assigned to Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base, was sentenced to 12 months confinement, reduction to E-1, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and a bad conduct discharge at a general court-martial on one specification of article 134, receiving stolen property.

• A Lance Corporal assigned to H&S Bn, MCB, was sentenced to 18 months confinement, reduction to E-1, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and a bad conduct discharge at a general court-martial on one specification of article 86, unauthorized absence, one specification of article 81, conspiracy to commit fraud, and one specification of article 121, larceny.

• A Lance Corporal assigned to H&S Bn, MCB was sentenced to 140 days confinement, reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$200 per month for two months at a general court-martial on one specification of article 134, receiving stolen property.

• A Seaman Recruit assigned to Naval Hospital was sentenced to seven years confinement, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and a dishonorable discharge on one specification of article 120, rape.

## CHAPELS

The following lists the times for religious services available at the specified camps or bases. Contact the local chapel to verify religious services start times.

### MCAS Futenma Chapel (636-3058)

#### Roman Catholic

Daily Mass (Monday - Friday); 11:45 a.m.  
Sunday Mass; 9 a.m., noon  
Confessions (Saturday); 4 p.m.

#### Protestant

Sunday Worship; 10:30 a.m.

#### Muslim

Futenma Zuhr; 12:30 p.m.



CPL CHAD SWAIM

## Picking Fruit

Barbra Alfaro, family member, looks over the fruits and vegetables on display at the Farmers Market Extravaganza at the Camp Kinser commissary March 23. The fruits and vegetables were displayed by local, Korean and stateside vendors. There were several attractions including a clown, a fire truck and the Kinser Taiko club on hand to perform.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Awards banquet

The 6th Annual Community Heroes Award Banquet will be held at the Rocker NCO Club on Kadena Air Base April 14 starting at 6 p.m.

The keynote speaker will be BGen Willie J. Williams, Commanding General, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler.

The banquet is designed to recognize outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to the community in the areas of: education, health care, civil/human rights, community service, performing arts, athletics/fitness and journalistic achievement.

Tickets for the event are \$22 for ages 13-adult, \$10 for ages 8-12 and \$5 for ages 7 and under.

For nomination procedures or other information, call David Young at 935-2517, Lucille Gardner at 646-2522 or Arlene Dixon at 646-5751.

### Scholarship competition

The Marine Officers Spouses' Club has scholarships available to dependent children of Marines pursuing undergraduate studies.

Applications are available at the Marine Gift Shop on Camp Foster and at both Kubasaki and Kadena High School.

All applications must be received by April 20.

The competition is open to those meeting the following requirements:

- The dependent child of any active duty Marine who is on an accompanied tour to Okinawa.
- The dependent child of any retired Marine living on Okinawa.
- The dependent child of a regular MOSC member as of May 20, 2000.

For more information, call Anne Woods at 646-2556 or Cheryl Paulsen at 633-1369.

### Child Abuse Prevention Month

The Counseling Advocacy Program is holding a Child Abuse Proclamation April 2 at the Zukeran Before & After School Program at 3 p.m. BGen Willie

J. Williams will be present to sign the proclamation at the school and provide a signatory book reading to the children at story time.

CAP representatives in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month and Month of the Military Child, will provide prevention information and promotional items to enhance community awareness.

For more information about the Child Abuse Proclamation or other events during the month contact 645-2915/2916.

### Enrollment underway

Enrollment is now underway for the University of Oklahoma summer courses. Continuous enrollment runs through July.

Some of the Human Relations degree courses offered are "Leadership in Organization" and "Arts, Media & Culture in HR" and the Economics courses are "Managerial Economics II" and "Major Issues in American Economic Development."

All classes are held in the Kadena Education Center during a one week format. Degree completion is possible in 18-24 months.

Call 634-1606 for tuition rates and degree requirements, or stop by the OU office in Bldg. 721A, room 101B. You can also visit our website at [www.goou.ou.edu](http://www.goou.ou.edu).

### Spring Fund-raiser

Kuwa Preschool is holding a fund-raiser April 7-8 at the Kadena USO from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A variety of booths will be available to participants.

For more information on the fund-raiser contact Kuwa Preschool at 645-8419.

### Okinawa Zoo Closure

The Okinawa Zoo featured in the March 23 issue of the *Okinawa Marine* is currently closed. The Zoo is scheduled to reopen in April 2002.

### To submit a brief ...

Send an e-mail to [editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil](mailto:editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil) or fax your request to 645-3803. The Okinawa Marine accepts briefs for non-profit organizations and groups only and they are run on a space-available and time-priority basis. Deadline for submitting briefs is noon every Friday and the Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material to fit space.

# Stepping up to the plate as Marines



SGTMAJ STEPHEN H. MELLINGER  
MARINE FORCES PACIFIC SERGEANT MAJOR

I want to start off by congratulating our latest sergeant major and master gunnery sergeant selects. Well done! After reviewing the selection list, I began thinking of what Marines (generally) are made of that make it to the top of our elite pay grade. We, for years now, have clung to the meanings of words such as honor, courage and commitment.

Words such as these are what dedicated Marines adhere to every day, in or out of uniform. And I believe the same can be said for the majority of our Marines who depart our elite Corps for civilian life.

It would be great if we could boast that every Marine in our Corps took those great words to heart and did their best to live by them. But we all know for a fact that there's always going to be those individuals that choose to march to the beat of a sadly different drum.

It eats at my gut each and every time I turn on the news to hear of yet another Marine, through his or her individual actions, has disgraced our illustrious Corps. Their selfish, insensitive or criminally reckless deeds inevitably stain themselves and our institution. As we all know, "One oh crap wipes out a thousand 'atta boys.'"

I get so upset with Marines who knowingly screw up or break the law, not simply because they embarrass the Corps, but because their thoughtless 'oh crap,' has just wiped out a thousand orphanage visits, Toys for Tots drives, humanitarian missions and countless other selfless deeds by caring Marines.

Have you heard the saying, "It's the five percent problem Marines that require 95 percent of

leadership's attention? Thus, it leaves only five percent of leadership's attention to give to the deserving 95 percent of our good Marines."

It's sad that those Marines who deliberately choose to be substandard performers and law-breakers don't seem to care about the negative effects their actions have on not only themselves, but the Corps as well. Where is their individual pride and self-respect? Where is their loyalty and concern for fellow Marines? Well, no matter whether or not they care about the consequences of their actions, the rest of us certainly do. And if we don't, we should!

I encourage every Marine, regardless of your rank, to step up to the plate and make it a point to "police" the actions of fellow Marines.

Whether it's correcting someone's uniform or beginning legal procedures against a person for something criminal, we Marines should be the first to take action to police our own.

The problem is that too many of us have become complacent or scared when it comes to 'calling a spade a spade,' and to get involved to correct something or someone. That's just plain wrong Marines. We know that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. For that reason alone, we need to ensure all Marines understand their need to be responsible individuals; if not for themselves, for the rest of the Corps.

You all have heard that the actions of Marines and of our Corps seem to be more under a microscope (of the American public) than other services. I believe it's true and that we should be proud of that fact.

When you're the best, more is required of you to set the right example for others to follow. And for this reason, I think we need to hold each other more accountable. Marines shouldn't want, or

have to have, anyone except Marines correcting our deficiencies.

Let me ask you, "What do Marines of a unit do prior to falling out for their unit inspection?" First, each Marine prepares and corrects everything they find wrong with their individual uniform. Second, he or she nitpicks himself or herself personally and their uniform until satisfied they and their uniform are ready to be inspected.

Individuals to be inspected then gather with the rest of their platoon where everyone nitpicks everyone else. Now why do they do that? Why do all those individuals, who have already prepared themselves for inspection, willingly request and expect others within their platoon to look them over? We all know the answer.

Marines ask their fellow platoon members to look for anything they might have missed that would embarrass them or make them fail the inspection. Each Marine seeks an outstanding rating from the inspector not only for personal reasons, but also for the entire platoon's rating. Internal policing of Marines within that platoon, produces unit pride and mission accomplishment.

It's no different in policing or correcting any deficiency of fellow Marines. That includes actions, attitudes, uniforms, civilian attire or anything else we know that needs correcting. Getting back to that platoon. They willingly seek to be policed by fellow platoon members, but they would be embarrassed if someone outside their platoon found something wrong. I feel it's no different when anyone outside our Corps has to step in to correct one of us. If we as a Corps or as an individual Marine have a deficiency, we want it to be corrected and corrected immediately because we always want to be squared away.

So let us all step up to the plate and not hesitate to police one another and assist fellow Marines and our Corps to look and perform with pride and dignity.

"I encourage every Marine, regardless of your rank, to step up to the plate and make it a point to "police" the actions of fellow Marines."

- SgtMaj Stephen H. Mellinger

## What Would You Do?

The following examination of leadership issues is not intended to present right or wrong answers. The goal is to provide a forum to encourage leadership discussions of challenging issues. Chaplain responses are designed to provide moral and ethical guidance. Questions, comments or ideas for a future scenario may be submitted to: [editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil](mailto:editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil)

### Driving conflictions

"Let's go to Gate 2 street tonight," suggests your roommate.

"Sure, I always wanted to see what all the talk is about, but I don't have that much yen and we don't get paid until next week," you reply.

"Come on, don't be such a baby," says your roommate. "It will be fun."

"Fine, but you're driving and you have to spot me some cash."

It is 0200 and time to go home. You wish you didn't have to drive, but there is no way that your roommate is fit to drive.

You on the other hand have drank only four or five beers and a couple of sake shots. You are more tired than intoxicated.

"Maybe we should take a cab?" you suggest.

"No can do, we only have 250 yen left. You have to drive."

You think you are OK to drive. What do you do?

### What the Marines said

**Private First Class with MCB:** "I'm probably going to drive. Maybe not here on Okinawa, but if I were in the States, I'd drive. I can keep myself awake long enough to get us both home."

**Corporal with 3d FSSG:** "I don't know if it's legal here, but we're sleeping it off in the car. I've been told a million times that driving drunk is only a little worse than driving tired. I can't afford to ruin my career because I was too broke to take a taxi or too dumb to not know my own limits."

**Lance Corporal with 3d MarDiv:** "Our staff NCOIC gave us his cell phone number and the duty number just in case we ended up in this kind of a situation. I'd probably just call him and have him come get us. He'd give us a hard time, but at least I know we wouldn't get in a car wreck or get arrested."

### What the Chaplain said

We hear this so many times, "Don't Drink and Drive!" Yet it still needs to be repeated so that all may learn how important this statement really is. If you are going to drink, don't drive. Have a Liberty Buddy who is a designated driver. Ask for a ride from someone you know was not drinking. Call someone for a ride. If you know you are going out and plan on drinking do so in a mature and responsible manner and do not leave anything to chance. That chance you might take could be your last one and have grave consequences.

- Navy LT William Dermott, Chaplain, Camp Courtney



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Sgt Parish J. Harvey, Squad Leader, Co L, 3/8, quickly issues orders to his Marines in order to effectively engage the enemy.



Carrying larger weapons while on skis and in deep snow becomes necessary. Soldiers of the JGSDF show the machine guns, in case they are fired upon.



FROM HALF WAY AROUND THE  
WORLD MARINES FIND THEMSELVES

# Conquering the frozen terrain

Story and Photos by Cpl Matthey E. Habib

**HOKKAIDO, Japan** — As Marines train around the world to win battles, they must be prepared to face all types of weather. Company L, 3d Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, found this out when they deployed here.

Company L Marines left the tropical jungles of Okinawa to join forces with the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force's 4th Co, 11th Infantry Regiment, 7th Division, and face the icy weather and frozen terrain of the JGSDF's Camp Chitose to participate in Exercise Forest Light 2001.

The bilateral exercise, which began Feb. 20 and concluded March 6, offered both forces a chance to exchange tactical skills, as well as a chance to learn about each other.

Many of the Marines learned skills from the JGSDF soldiers, who were masters at negotiating the snow-covered terrain on skis. Whether it was speeding down a steep hill or carrying a full-load of gear while cross-country skiing, the JGSDF had a large hand in teaching the Marines what they needed to know in order to train efficiently in the unfamiliar environment.

"Back in Fuji, the Marines were taught the basic principles of skiing, and that definitely helped us when we got out here," said LCpl Brendon P. Landry, Automatic Rifleman. "The Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force soldiers went into more depth for what we were already taught. They are excellent skiers and teachers. Having the Japanese soldiers assist us really helped develop our skiing abilities quicker."

The Marines were also able to share their knowledge on different tactics concerning the engagement of enemies. The Marines demonstrated everything from squad rushes to using the different small arms weapons systems to the JGSDF soldiers.

"The Japanese forces were impressed by the Marines' ability to fire and maneuver at the same time," said Sgt Ruben Ortiz, Squad Leader. "At first, trying to execute fire team rushes on skis and snowshoes slowed us down and made it difficult for us. We had to decide which would be more efficient in certain cases; to maneuver by foot or by skis. By the time we had finished, we had perfected our schemes of maneuver and were able to display and share our abilities with the Japanese forces."

The tactical portion of Forest Light wrapped up during a three-day field exercise in which both forces worked hand-in-hand to make it through the demanding operation. Both forces negotiated the ter-

rain by foot, ski and mechanized vehicles while achieving their goals, but according to most of the participants, no one would have accomplished their mission without being able to count on each other.

"The terrain and weather were unforgiving," said Cpl Todd J. Rogers, Squad Leader, Machine Gun Section, Weapons Platoon. "No one individual, whether it is a Marine or JGSDF soldier, could have survived this evolution if we didn't all value the meaning of teamwork. Together we did what we needed to do."

The Marines and Japanese soldiers were just as comfortable spending time with each other in their off-time, as they were working with each other in the field. At the end of the training day, both forces shared evening meals at the camp's messhall.

Both units would return back to their barracks and take care of maintenance on gear or have the day's final formation before heading out to find their new friends. During this time, service members from both forces shared some laughs, traded a few items and learned each other's culture.

"One of the things that both units mentioned was how much alike we were, even though we're two different cultures," said Cpl Mark E. Foster, Communications Operator, Headquarters Co. "From a military standpoint, we have a lot in common and made it easy for us to befriend each other. Also, it was a good opportunity for us to learn new things about each other's cultures, because we do come from such different backgrounds."

One of the greatest opportunities to learn about the other forces

culture came during the home visit portion of the exercise. During the home visits, the Marines were invited by their JGSDF counterparts to eat dinner at their homes. Not only did it make for an interesting evening of conversation, but offered the Marines a chance to experience the Japanese lifestyle first-hand.

The Marines and Japanese soldiers bid farewell to each other as the exercise came to a close. Both forces shared one last meal together and were treated to a live drumming performance by a Japanese ceremonial drum unit. The Marines and their families were also invited to come back and visit the hospitality of Hokkaido by some of its residents and the JGSDF.

After a couple of days of recuperation and some final preparations, the Marines of 3/8 will head to Pohang, South Korea, where they will conduct mountain warfare training along with the Republic of Korea Marines.



2ndLt Brian F. Tice, Platoon Commander, Co L, 3/8, looks on as the Marines and JGSDF practices their skiing techniques.

now can become cumbersome, especially if moving quickly. Marines how they quickly get into position with their machine



# Marines get schooled on skis

*Unit trains on skis for Forest Light 2001 exercise*

CPL MATTHEW E. HABIB  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**HOKKAIDO, Japan** — Before the Marines of Company L, 3d Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment could practice their combat tactics in the snow here, they needed to learn how to ski.

Without the skills required to navigate through the snow-covered terrain of Camp Chitose during Exercise Forest Light 01-2, the Marines would never have been able to train effectively in the environment.

Their ski training began at Camp Fuji, Japan, as skilled Marine and Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force instructors taught the Marines the basic skiing skills necessary to complete their missions. Though the Marines picked up the skills needed to carry out their missions, the road to achieving the goal was a rocky one for some. Most of the Marines had never skied before.

"When we first started skiing on the larger hills, it was pretty much every man for himself and look out below," Cpl Mark S. Newell, Squad Leader, Co L, 3/8. "One time, when skiing down the hill, I still couldn't really stop or turn that well. After about 50 yards, I started to pick up speed pretty fast. I ended up hitting a little jump, and face-planted into the snow, with my skies flying off me. This was typical for me when we first started skiing."

These incidents were common only within the first couple of days of training. Within 3/8, there were Marines who were experienced at skiing, and used their knowledge to help their fellow skiers. These

Marines, led by SSgt Roy E. Dorn III, Platoon Sergeant, helped prepare these Marines to teach their fellow Leathernecks how to handle themselves on the snowy slopes.

"I actually learned how to ski through the Boy Scouts, while growing up in Oregon," laughed LCpl Jai Johnston, Machine-gunner, Co L. "The Marines who knew how to ski were taken out of their companies while still back in Fuji, and given a class for about a week. There, we were taught how to teach the fundamentals of skiing to the rest of the company, divided into platoons and each assigned a ski instructor. We taught control, snow shoeing and how to cross-country ski with full gear."

While the Marines did learn the basics while at Camp Fuji, they were still having some trouble when they arrived to Camp Chitose. The hills there were far bigger than what the Marines were used to and the cross-country courses were larger and more difficult to navigate. The Marines were up to the challenge.

"The Marines were having the hardest times trying to control their speed and turning while going down hill," LCpl Johnston said. "By the second day into Forest Light though, the Marines practically did an about-face and picked up the right techniques quickly. Through the combination of time on skis, practice in Fuji and instruction from the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force soldiers, we were doing pretty good."

The Marines also faced a slight language barrier with the JGSDF soldiers. While both forces had translators attached to them, it was still a challenge



CPL MATTHEW E. HABIB

After a little practice, the Marines of 3/8 finally got the hang of the basic principles of skiing. These skills would later prove useful for the unit as the Marines participated in many field exercises in terrain covered by deep snow.

to communicate at times.

"The Marines really couldn't understand what the Japanese instructors were saying at times, but by mimicking what the Japanese were doing, the Marines were able to pick up the skills," LCpl Johnston said. "The Japanese were very good teachers and very patient with the Marines. It must have been very hard to stay calm and help teach the Marines how to ski without being able to speak freely."

The next challenge came soon enough when the Marines combined their newly-learned skiing skills with their fire and maneuver techniques. Now, not only were the Marines on skis, but they also had gear and weapons.

"We did fire and maneuver with both skis and snowshoes," Cpl Newell said. "With skis on, it was pretty tough and a lot slower, but as long as we took our time and remembered what we were taught, we were able to perform pretty well. In a couple of instances, too, we traded our skis for snowshoes, because we found we could maneuver and get up quicker while wearing them."

The final challenge was overcome by a combination of Marine and JGSDF tactics. While on skis, it was still important to be able to use weapons, but if the wrong

techniques were used, the Marines would quickly find themselves sinking into six feet of snow.

While the Marines retained the traditional shooting positions of standing, kneeling, sitting and prone, the JGSDF elaborated on those, and added the ski gear into equation. By using the skis and snowshoes in the right positions, the Marines would not sink into the snow. Also, by using the ski poles in as a bi-pod, the Marines could effectively fire their weapons while in the snow. Depending on the situation, the Marines were able to use their firing techniques at times, and the JGSDF techniques during others.

"The Japanese taught us the four different shooting positions, in addition to the four the Marines use," Cpl Newell said. "The new positions worked great in the snow, and supported our shooting positions by giving us stability while firing. We also used our traditional positions in some cases when we closed in on the objective. Sometimes it's just easier and quicker to take a knee."

"Overall, the training was difficult, but it was fun and interesting at the same time," said Cpl Christopher M. Murphy, Team Leader. "We had never done this type of training before, and it was a good learning experience in case we ever had to do this in a real-life situation. Plus, I learned how to ski both down hill and cross country."



CPL MATTHEW E. HABIB

When the Marines first began ski lessons to help them through their training, some had more trouble than others. LCpl Donald Ward, Machine Gunner, Co L, 3/8 has a little trouble staying upright during one of his first attempts down the hill.



# St. Patty's Day

tradition brings engineers together



During the crosscut saw relay teams have to cut wooden beams into three sections.

## Marines, Sailors celebrate St. Patrick's Day with friendly competition

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. DAMIAN MCGEE  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**CAMP HANSEN** — Marines from the 9th Engineer Support Battalion were victorious in the annual St. Patrick's Day field competition here, March 15.

The first competition began around 1904 when students from the University of Missouri discovered that St. Patrick was an engineer, according to 1stLt Carl H. Northcutt, Adjutant, 9th ESB.

Currently the event is celebrated as a chance for engineers of all services to get together and compete.

Engineers from 9th ESB, Combat Assault Battalion, Marine Wing Support Squadron-172, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion-4 and Marine Corps Base's Facilities Maintenance participated in this year's competition.

"It was nice for us to be able to get

out of the office and get together," said LCpl Nicole Canziani, Training Noncommissioned Officer, MWSS-172, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. "We never really have a chance to get together for events like this."

The competition, hosted by the 9th ESB, is designed to promote competition, fellowship, unit pride and engineering skills.

The engineers participated in several events during the competition including, a Blarney Stone toss, dump truck relay, crosscut saw relay, nail driving relay and a bulk fuel hose relay. At the conclusion of the competitions, the Marines shared in a barbecue-style lunch together with the various units.

"I was glad we participated in the meet," LCpl Canziani said. "I hope we get to do more things like this with other Marines and Sailors."

The competition has always been stiff and this year was no exception. Camaraderie and cohesiveness were the overall goals, and this year's meet will leave many with stories to tell, according to 1stLt Northcutt.

The day ended with all the participating units in a mass formation to present 9th ESB with the traditional trophy, the "she alee" stick. The unit will display the stick for one year until next year's competition.

An additional highlight of the day included the reenlistment of 9th ESB's Sergeant Major, SgtMaj Douglas H. Vasquez, who said his reenlistment depended on the unit winning the day.

"If I was to die in combat or retire from the Corps, this is the unit I want to do it with," SgtMaj Vasquez said. "These Marines are the best and they proved it here today."



The bulk fuel hose relay consisted of six Marines or Sailors carrying a hose a distance more than 50 yards before they handed it off to their waiting teammates who did the same back across the finish line.



(above) SgtMaj Douglas H. Vasquez accepted the trophy on behalf of 9th ESB. SgtMaj Vasquez, 9th ESB Sergeant Major, reenlisted during the St. Patrick's Day competition. (left) Marines from 9th ESB were undefeated in the tug-o-war competition.



# Students tour Futenma from the pilot seat

LCPL KATHY J. ARNDT  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA** — Forty-eight students from AmerAsian School in Okinawa visited Marines here recently for a day-long field trip to learn a little about Marine helicopters.

The students, ranging from kindergarten to ninth grade, toured Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron-267, Marine Air Group-36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

When the students arrived at the squadron, they were greeted by Lt Col Robert A. Martinez, Commanding Officer, HMLA-267, MAG-36, 1st MAW. Then the students were split up into three groups and were given a tour of HMLA-267.

Students saw various pieces of safety gear including helmets, vests, night vision goggles and gas masks used by pilots and aircrew of HMLA-267. After trying on each, the students were taken down to the hangar where they were given the chance to see the AH-1W Super Cobra and the UH-1N Huey helicopters up close.

They toured the helicopters from front to back and were told each helicopter's capabilities and the purpose of the Marine Corps. After learning a little about both helicopters, the students got a pilot's view from inside the Cobra's cockpit and the Huey.

The squadron also invited Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, Headquarters and Headquarter Squadron, MCAS Futenma, to show the students what they do to support HMLA-267. Crash, Fire, Rescue also brought along Sparky, the safety dog, to remind the students about fire safety.



LCPL KATHY J. ARNDT  
Tyler Underwood shows his classmate Ken Thayer, both Kindergartners, AmerAsian School in Okinawa, a helmet used by pilots and aircrew of HMLA-276, MAG-36, 1st MAW, during the school's recent field trip to the squadron.

When the tours were over, the students headed back to the ready room where they were served pizza and sodas for lunch before returning to school. The fun the students had during their field trip to HMLA-267 was evident by the smiles on their faces.

"They really like coming out and seeing the Marines and helicopters up front," said Linda L. Bate, Assistant Principal, AmerAsian School in Okinawa.

The students were not the only ones having fun that day.

"We have a great time when kids come down and the Marines are proud to show off what they can do," said Capt Mike S. Swingler, AH-1W Super Cobra Helicopter Pilot, HMLA-267, MAG-36, 1st MAW.

This isn't the first time some of these students and Marines have met. Many Marines from HMLA-267 volunteer at AmerAsian school in Okinawa.

"Some of the Marines volunteer a lot of time at the school," Bate said.

"The Marines are English tutors on Saturday mornings," Capt Swingler said.

When the students visit the squadron or when the Marines go to the school, it helps both the community and the squadron.

"It's good for the community and the squadron to do things like this and there is nothing better than to have the kids smile to brighten your day," Lt Col Martinez said.

## Sugar bonds Marines, Japanese

### Marines assist farmers in sugarcane harvest

PFC DAMIAN MCGEE  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**ISHIKAWA, Okinawa** — Something as simple as sugar recently brought several Marines from 9th Engineer Support Battalion together with residents here March 9.

The Marines visited sugarcane farms to assist farmers harvesting their crops by loading the cut sugarcane onto trucks. The sugarcane harvest is becoming a tradition with the Marines from Camp Hansen.

"This is the third time Marines from Camp Hansen have taken their time to help with the harvest at the end of the three-month long sugarcane season," said Chiyoko Kochi, Community Relations Specialist, Camp Hansen.

The project started because the owners of the fields are getting older and are not able to complete the harvesting process alone, according to Kochi.

In addition to the owners of the fields, the Marines were also able to help a group of mentally-chal-

lenged Okinawans.

The group, which normally works various jobs around the city to repay the government for the services provided them through their government-funded home, was also assisting with the harvest. The Marines were such a big help because it gave the group a chance to interact with Americans in addition to making the load a little lighter.

"They usually work by themselves," Kochi said. "In addition to making it easier, it makes them tend to work a little harder when other people are around or watching them."

The Japanese workers were very excited about the Americans being there to help them.

"They love it," said Hanai Toyama, organizer of the group. "Although they can't speak English they still love to interact and help."

The project also meant a lot to the owners of the fields who, for various reasons, can't tend to their own farms.

"It's a really big help when the



PFC DAMIAN MCGEE  
Nearly 20 Marines from 9th ESB spent an entire morning piling cut sugarcane for farmers who are no longer able to harvest the crop themselves. LCpl Ricardo Gil carries a bundle of sugarcane to one of the piles created by the Marines.

Marines and Sailors come out here," said Robert Simpson, a 65-year-old field owner. "At my age I can't move things around like I used to due to an injury I received in Vietnam."

According to Simpson, it's also good that the Marines and Sailors are willing to take the time to learn more about the Okinawan culture while lending a helping hand.

While the Marines and Sailors did nothing more than assist some landowners with the organization

and moving their sugarcane, the project was something that LTJG Vincent Phan, Chaplain, Headquarters and Service Company, 9th ESB, feels others should definitely experience.

"Everyone out here volunteered and was happy to be here," LTJG Phan said. "Those people who missed this, for whatever reason, missed the opportunity to feel good about themselves and represent the military in a positive light."



# H-Town victorious in Grid Iron battle

CPL. KIMBERLY S. DOWELL  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**CAMP SCHWAB** — Service members from bases islandwide took over the football fields at the landing zone here to compete in the two-day Grid Iron Classic Open Flag Football Tournament held recently.

Nine teams competed in the tournament that organizers described as highly competitive. While the athletes focused on scoring touchdowns, the referees had their hands full ensuring the highest levels of sportsmanship were maintained.

"The tournaments are very competitive," said Steven Brigante, Sports Coordinator at Camp Schwab's Power Dome Athletic Facility. "The athletes take the game seriously. Sometimes a little too seriously perhaps."

Referees ran alongside the athletes as they battled it out for first and second place trophies in this double-elimination

tournament. While making the familiar calls recognizable to most football fans, the referees also tossed yellow flags when players cussed or were caught using tobacco products on the sidelines.

"They're not allowed to cuss, fight, or use alcohol or tobacco products," said Tyrone Adams, Sports Specialist at Camp Schwab Power Dome. "It's important that we maintain the highest levels of sportsmanlike conduct. These tournaments are designed to be a good, positive activity for the Marines and other service members to enjoy."

After a full day of competition Feb. 10, "H-Town," a team consisting of Marines from units on Camp Hansen, met the Giants, a Marine team from Camp Foster, in the playoff and championship games Feb. 11.

H-Town went into the playoff game knowing the Giants had to defeat them twice in order to take home the first place trophy. If H-Town took the playoff game,

the tournament was over.

The Giants focused their offensive efforts, scoring 25 points to H-Town's 14. The Giants' victory meant the already game-worn teams had to duel it out one last time.

As the teams dove into the championship game, several key plays by the fleet-footed Giants' quarterback, Brian Dominques, kept H-Town using every defensive player to his fullest.

But Dominques' offensive efforts nor his defense's continued strong play were enough to quiet H-Town, who took the championship game, 28-22.

The Giants described their tournament play as a good way to end their season, though H-Town left the field proud of their newly earned trophies and bragging rights.

The Giants are pretty well-known in flag football on Okinawa, according to Brigante.

"There's probably a little added fervor for H-Town in defeating the Giants," he said.



Sacha Fischer raises his hands in victory after his team, "H-Town" took first place in the Grid Iron Classic open flag football tournament held recently at Camp Schwab. Fellow teammate, Will Cuellar grips the game ball as the team makes their way off the field.



CPL KIMBERLY S. DOWELL  
Brian Dominques fades back to throw as his team mate, Tremayne Tukes looks back and H-Town defenders (red jerseys) move in on Dominque's position.



CPL KIMBERLY S. DOWELL  
Dwayne Bryant, Giants, motivates his teammates during a half-time break. The Giants, known islandwide as a highly competitive flag football team, came up short taking second place in the recent Grid Iron Classic open flag football tournament.

# Camp Foster takes boxing fans to Friday night fights

LCPL KEITH R. MEIKLE  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**CAMP FOSTER** — Twenty-four boxers showed their skills to a crowd of approximately 600 fight fans during Friday Night at the Fights March 16.

There were 12 champions, 12 runners-up and zero losers according to Fight Night organizer Donald K. Hansen.

"It takes a lot of guts to get in a ring and go toe-to-toe with another person; that makes them all winners in my book," said Hansen, a Marine who teaches boxing during his off duty time at the Okinawa Boxing Club.

The three-round bouts featured two-minute rounds. Fighters used 16-ounce gloves to minimize knockouts. The hard-hitting action began with Taylor Gleason defeating Estaban Rosas.

The main event was slugged out between Raul A. Ramirez, former All-Marine boxer, and Nelson Lebron, a former Golden Glove winner in Virginia. The fight was such a crowd pleaser that both were declared winners.

Not all fights can be as even. Laura Clark, a former Mexican Golden Glove winner, went up against Melody Scalfone, who was fighting for the first time. Scalfone received rough blows, as well as delivered some herself. Scalfone competed like a warrior for three hard rounds, according to Hansen.

Scalfone was the runner-up with the biggest heart. She got in the ring with an experienced boxer when her only fighting experience was two weeks of Marine Corps close combat training.

"Scalfone displayed the most heart by giving a 110 percent to a very experienced Clark," Hansen said.

"I heard the challenge on the radio and had always had a hidden desire to fight so I stepped up," Scalfone said. "I heard that she had four years of experience and was a Golden Glove winner in two different countries, so my goal was to last. I thought I was just fighting another girl, but she showed me that woman boxers are just as competitive as men."

Competition was exactly what Scalfone and every other boxer were looking for.

"The fights are competitive out here, especially with the crowd," said Manuel A. Zavala, who won his bout against Charles E. Hall. "The crowd improves the competition because you hear the shouting and chants and you want to show them the punch they want to see."

"It's exciting to see this," said Donald E. Rolfe, who came to watch Darryl Thomas in his winning bout against Andre E. Durden.

"Fighting in front of a crowd like this gives the boxers a chance to show off their skills they learn in the boxing club,"

Hansen said. "The crowd creates a different fight than what they are used to in the club."

The boxing club is where most of the boxers start to prepare for this event. Hansen said service members interested in learning how to box may attend the free practices on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

For more information about joining the club or tournaments call Donald Hansen at 645-7444/7445, or the Marine Corps Community Service office at 645-3985.



## BOXING RESULTS

Taylor Gleason, USMC, def. Estaban Rosas, USMC  
Jose Cuellar, USAF, def. Seth Crawford, USMC  
Manuel Zavala, USMC, def. Charles Hall, USMC  
Kevin Jenkins, USMC, def. Frank Anderson, USMC  
Darryl Thomas, USMC, def. Andre Durden, USMC  
Earl White, USMC, def. Karlus Cozart, USAF  
Jorge Lopez, USMC, def. William Rivera Jr., USMC  
David Archuleta, USAF, def. Eric Thompson, USMC  
Dominic Dominguez, USMC, def. Mario Munoz, USMC  
James Baker, USMC, def. Rashawn Rawls, USMC  
Johnathan Farrow, USN, def. Miguel Cantu, USMC  
David Herron, USMC, def. Joshua Dewees, USMC  
Laura Clark, USMC, def. Melody Scalfone, USMC  
Raul Ramirez tied Nelson Lebron



There are many of these small waterfalls carrying the sounds of water throughout the park.



# A little part of Naha's sister city

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL CHAD SWAIM  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**NAHA** — Nestled among apartment buildings in the downtown area is a serene garden filled with leafy green plants and numerous waterfalls.

Fukusyu-en was built in cooperation with the City's Chinese sister city, Fukusyu. The park was established in 1992 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Friendly Relations Agreement between the two cities and the 70th Anniversary of Naha City.

The cities of Naha and Fukusyu were the center of trading between the Ryukyu Kingdom and China for 600 years. World War II put an end to the commerce between these two cities.

To create the natural surroundings, engineers in Fukusyu City processed materials, such as wood, stone and tile, which were used in the construction of the garden. The Chinese engineers were also invited to work with engineers from Naha City for the garden's construction.

The park is modeled after the one found in Fukusyu City, China. It consists of three distinct areas. The eastern, central and western areas represent a particular Chinese season. The eastern area represents spring. Summer and autumn are represented by the central area and the western area represents winter.

While walking through the park an intercom system informs patrons in Japanese and English about the history and actions that have made the park the way it is today.

At the entrance of the garden there are paths leading to the left and right. Both wind through the lush growth of plants and babbling waterfalls. Small benches and buildings are scattered among the park. Ponds teeming with carp and turtles are spread throughout the garden. Food is available for the aquatic creatures in coin-operated machines throughout the park.

In the center of the garden is Hei-zan, a small coral mountain with a gazebo on top and a large waterfall down one side. The mountain also has a labyrinth of small caverns, one of which leads to an area behind the waterfall offering a wet view of the outside world.

To get to the park travel south on Highway 58 approximately 4 kilometers past Camp Kinser's Gate 1. Take a left at route 42, also known as Kumoji intersection. The park is 250 meters on the left. Parking is scarce, but a parking lot is located halfway between the intersection and the park. The parking lot charges by the hour.

The park opens daily at 9 a.m. and closes at 6 p.m. The price of admission for adults is ¥315 and ¥105 for children. Special discounts are available for groups of 30 or more.



The garden's centerpiece, Hei-zan, has the largest waterfall in the park and the entire park can be seen from the gazebo.



The Chinese-style buildings throughout the garden were constructed with the cooperation of engineers from Fukusyu City in China.



The Chinese-style buildings throughout the garden were constructed with the cooperation of engineers from Fukusyu City in China.





## AUTOMOBILES/MOTORCYCLES

**1990 Honda Civic** — JCI Sep 01, \$1,600 OBO. 637-2482.  
**1994 Nissan Pulsar** — JCI Feb 03, \$2,500. 645-1736 or 646-6267.  
**1988 Toyota Town Ace** — JCI Aug 02, \$3,500. 637-3228.  
**1993 Mazda Presso** — JCI Feb 02, \$2,900 OBO. 637-3309.  
**1988 Toyota Town Ace** — JCI Mar 03, \$2,500. **1986 Totota Sprinter** — JCI Mar 03, \$1,500. 645-2103.  
**1987 Nissan Skyline** — JCI Apr 01, free. Mel, 637-1881.  
**1989 Toyota Vista** — JCI Jun 02, \$1,700 OBO. 646-4974.  
**1990 Toyota Carina** — JCI Aug 01, \$1,200 OBO. 625-2105.  
**1992 Toyota Vista** — JCI Mar 03, \$2,800 OBO. 646-3045.  
**1994 Toyota Cynos** — JCI Mar 03, \$2,500 OBO. 646-3119.  
**1988 Toyota Carina** — JCI Aug 01, \$600 OBO. 637-2082.  
**1990 Honda Integra** — JCI Feb 03, \$2,000 OBO. 646-2252.  
**1991 Honda Civic** — JCI Mar 02, \$1,600 OBO. 646-2252.  
**1991 Toyota Camry** — JCI Oct 02, \$2,500. 646-4136.  
**1990 Nissan Praire** — JCI Jan 03, \$3,000 OBO. 637-3615.  
**1992 Nissan Skyline** — \$3,000. 646-8056.  
**1987 Toyota Town Ace** — JCI May 02, \$800 OBO. 646-2503.  
**1992 Toyota Vista** — JCI Mar 03, \$2,800 OBO. **1994 Toyota Cynos** — JCI Mar 03, \$2,500. 646-3119.  
**1992 Toyota ED** — JCI Mar 03, \$2,900. 090-3792-2137.  
**1991 Toyota Celica** — JCI Feb 03, \$2,500 OBO. 645-3919.  
**1993 Honda Prelude** — JCI June 02, \$3,400 OBO. 636-4403.  
**1989 Toyota Town Ace** — JCI Aug 02, \$2,500 OBO. **1990 Toyota Master Ace** — JCI Aug 02, \$2,500 OBO. 633-1709.  
**1991 Nissan Cefiro** — JCI Oct 02, \$2,000. 645-7547.  
**1988 Honda Integra** — JCI Nov 02, \$1,110 OBO. 646-4576.

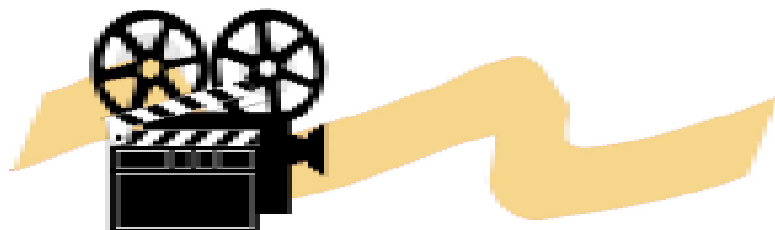


## MISCELLANEOUS

**Misc.** — Women's rollerblades, size 8 1/2, \$75. 637-6863.  
**Misc.** — Graco pack-n-play, \$60; crib, \$50; 2 wooden rocking horses, \$55 each; electronic keyboard, \$60; headboard and footboard queen size, \$200; English 294 creative writing book, \$25; 13" computer monitor, \$100. 646-4576.  
**Misc.** — 100 feet fence, 5 feet high, \$700. 646-4136.  
**Misc.** — Dehumidifier, \$80; transformer 2000w, \$90; electric range, \$250 OBO. 625-2105 or 090-1086-2615.  
**Chip** — Playstion Mod-chip, \$25. John, 637-3718.  
**Rabbit** — Calico rabbit, \$30; with cage, \$90. 637-6082.  
**Misc.** — 5 lug, 16" Nissan Skyline wheel set, \$150. 646-3290.  
**Misc.** — Small country style dinner table w/three chairs, \$30; small wood side table, \$20. 645-2743.  
**Misc.** — Jenny Lind brown crib and changing table, \$100 OBO; blue parakeet, FTGH. Melissa, 622-8649 or 634-0114.  
**Misc.** — 12X15 beige area rug, \$100 OBO. 622-5314.  
**Misc.** — Refrigerator, \$350; computer desk, \$25; king-sized mattress, box springs, bedframe, \$100; sofa, \$50; nightstand, \$10; dresser, \$20; playstation w/13 games, \$120. 098-982-0015.  
**Misc.** — Vertical blinds, \$60; Barbie house, \$70. 622-9460.  
**Misc.** — 12X15 Carpet, \$130; dog house, \$35; evening gown size 9/10, \$250. Kris, 633-0753 after 4:30 p.m.

Ads appearing in the Okinawa Marine do so as a free service to active duty military, their dependents and DoD employees. Ads are restricted to personal property or service of incidental exchange. Ads run on a space-available basis and must be resubmitted each week. The deadline for ads is noon, Fridays, space permitting. The Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit ads to fit available space. Please include your name and the phone number you wish published. The Okinawa Marine makes every effort to ensure accuracy, but assumes no responsibility for services offered in ads. Submit ads by faxing to 645-3803, Mon.-Fri., or send an e-mail to editor@mcbutler.usmc.mil

## Coming to a theater near you ...



Feature programs and start times are subject to change without notice. **Call theaters in advance to confirm showtimes.** Second evening movies will vary when the program runs longer than 120 minutes.

### Keystone (634-1869)

**Fri** Sweet November (PG13); 6:30  
**Fri** Hannibal (R); 9:30  
**Sat** Emperor's New Groove (PG13); 1:00  
**Sat** Sweet November (PG13); 5:30  
**Sat** Exit Wounds (R); 8:30



**Check Schwab and Butler Theaters for show times.**

**Sun** Emperor's New Groove (PG13); 2:00  
**Sun** Exit Wounds (R); 5:30, 8:30  
**Mon** Unbreakable (PG13); 7:00  
**Tue** Double Take (PG13); 7:00  
**Wed** Double Take (PG13); 7:00  
**Thu** Hannibal (R); 7:00

### Schwab (625-2333)

**Fri** All the Pretty Horses (PG13); 7:00  
**Sat** Dracula 2000 (R); 6:00  
**Sat** What Women Want (PG13); 9:00  
**Sun** Dracula 2000 (R); 3:00  
**Sun** What Women Want (PG13); 6:00  
**Mon** Exit Wounds (R); 7:00  
**Tue** Exit Wounds (R); 7:00  
**Wed** Closed  
**Thu** Unbreakable (PG13); 7:00

### Butler

**(645-3465)**

**Fri** 15 Minutes (R); 7:00, 10:00  
**Sat** All the Pretty Horses (PG13); 1:00, 4:00  
**Sat** 15 Minutes (R); 7:00, 10:00  
**Sun** Closed  
**Mon** Thirteen Days (PG13); 7:00

**Tue** Thirteen Days (PG13); 7:00  
**Wed** Thirteen Days (PG13); 7:00  
**Thu** Double Take (R); 7:00

### Kinser

**(637-2177)**

**Fri** Dracula 2000 (PG13); 7:00  
**Sat** Unbreakable (PG13); 3:00  
**Sat** Double Take (PG13); 7:00, 11:30  
**Sun** Thirteen Days (PG13); 7:00  
**Mon** Closed  
**Tue** Unbreakable (PG13); 7:00  
**Wed** Exit Wounds (R); 7:00  
**Thu** Exit Wounds (PG13); 7:00

### Hansen

**(623-4564)**

**Fri** 3,000 Miles to Graceland (R); 6:00, 9:00  
**Sat** 3,000 Miles to Graceland (R); 6:00, 9:00  
**Sun** Double Take (PG13); 2:00, 5:30  
**Mon** Unbreakable (PG13); 7:00  
**Tue** Unbreakable (PG13); 7:00  
**Wed** Thirteen Days (PG13); 7:00  
**Thu** Thirteen Days (PG13); 7:00

### Courtney

**(622-9616)**

**Fri** Exit Wounds (R); 7:00  
**Sat** Hannibal (PG13); 7:00  
**Sun** What Women Want (PG13); 7:00  
**Mon** Closed  
**Tue** Closed  
**Wed** Dracula 2000 (R); 1:00  
**Thu** Closed

### Futenma

**(636-3890)**

**Fri** Miss Congeniality (PG13); 7:30  
**Sat** What Women Want (PG13); 6:00  
**Sun** Dracula 2000 (R); 6:00  
**Mon** The Mexican (R); 7:30  
**Tue** Closed  
**Wed** 15 Minutes (R); 7:30  
**Thu** Closed



**Check Kinser, Butler, and Keystone Theaters for show times.**

**AAFES**  
**\$3<sup>00</sup>**  
**Off**

Haircut at your AAFES Barber/Beauty Shop.

**Expires: 7 Apr 01**

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**AAFES**  
**\$2<sup>00</sup>**  
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Laundry/dry cleaning any order of \$10 or more at your AAFES Laundry/Dry Cleaner.

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**AAFES**  
**\$3<sup>00</sup>**  
**Off**

Any order of \$15 or more at your AAFES Alteration Tailor.

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**AAFES**  
**\$6<sup>00</sup>**  
**Off**

Permanent or chemical treatment at your local AAFES Beauty Shop

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**AAFES**  
**\$4<sup>00</sup>**  
**Off**

Shampoo & set or blow dry, complete package service, manicure or pedicure at your AAFES Beauty Shop.

**Expires: 7 Apr 01**

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